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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-75 and add new claims 76-95 as follows.

1-75. (Cancelled)

76. (New) A method of operating a routing server to route a telephone call that is received by a first internet service provider, the method comprising:

receiving and processing a query from the first internet service provider wherein the query includes a telephone number that identifies a destination region for the telephone call;

if the first internet service provider serves the destination region, then selecting a first internet address of the first internet service provider and transferring the first internet address to the first internet service provider for use in routing the telephone call to the destination region over the internet;

if the first internet service provider does not serve the destination region and if a second internet service provider does serve the destination region, then selecting a second internet address of the second internet service provider and transferring the second internet address to the first internet service provider for use in routing the telephone call to the destination region over the internet; and

if the first internet service provider and the second internet service provider do not serve the destination region, then selecting a third internet address of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) interface and transferring the third internet address to the first internet service provider for use in routing the telephone call to the destination region over the PSTN.

77. (New) The method of claim 76 further comprising checking a list at the first internet service provider before sending the query and transferring the query if the list does not have any internet addresses associated with the telephone number.

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78. (New) The method of claim 76 further comprising selecting a backup internet address and transferring the backup internet address to the first internet service provider for use in backup routing of the telephone call to the destination region.

79. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein selecting one of the internet addresses comprises processing an identity of the first internet service provider.

80. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the first internet service provider serves the destination region with an internet gateway located in the destination region.

81. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the second internet service provider serves the destination region with an internet gateway located in the destination region.

82. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein selecting one of the internet addresses comprises processing a time of day.

83. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein selecting one of the internet addresses comprises processing a day of week.

84. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein selecting one of the internet addresses comprises processing a day of year.

85. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein routing system includes the PSTN interface.

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86. (New) A routing system to route a telephone call that is received by a first internet service provider, the routing server comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a query from the first internet service provider wherein the query includes a telephone number that identifies a destination region for the telephone call;

a processing system configured process the telephone number, and if the first internet service provider serves the destination region, then to select a first internet address of the first internet service provider, and if the first internet service provider does not serve the destination region and if a second internet service provider does serve the destination region, then to select a second internet address of the second internet service provider, and if the first internet service provider and the second internet service provider do not serve the destination region, then to select a third internet address of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) interface; and

the communication interface configured to transfer the first, second, or third internet address to the first internet service provider for use in routing the telephone call to the destination region.

87. (New) The routing system of claim 86 further comprising the first internet service provider that is configured to check a list before sending the query and to transfer the query if the list does not have any internet addresses associated with the telephone number.

88. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the processing system is configured to select a backup internet address and the communications interface is configured to transfer the backup internet address to the first internet service provider for use in backup routing of the telephone call to the destination region.

89. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the processing system is configured to select one of the internet addresses by processing an identity of the first internet service provider.

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90. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the first internet service provider serves the destination region with an internet gateway located in the destination region.
91. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the second internet service provider serves the destination region with an internet gateway located in the destination region.
92. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the processing system is configured to select one of the internet addresses by processing a time of day.
93. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the processing system is configured to select one of the internet addresses by processing a day of week.
94. (New) The routing system of claim 86 wherein the processing system is configured to select one of the internet addresses by processing a day of year.
95. (New) The routing system of claim 86 further comprising the PSTN interface.